

Remarks

Claims 1-16 were previously pending, of which claims 3-5 and 11-13 have been presently cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks and information.

The examiner has made a request for information under 37 CFR 1.105, which the applicant will try to answer with candor and good faith. Any information not presently disclosed was either unknown or not readily obtainable for this submission.

In paragraph #2, the examiner requests background description by documenting the state of the art ERP system. The following definition of ERP is taken from the E-encyclopedia.¹

(Enterprise Resource Planning) An integrated information system that serves all departments within an enterprise. Evolving out of the manufacturing industry, ERP implies the use of packaged software rather than proprietary software written by or for one customer. ERP modules may be able to interface with an organization's own software with varying degrees of effort, and, depending on the software, ERP modules may be alterable via the vendor's proprietary tools as well as proprietary or standard programming languages.

An ERP system can include software for manufacturing, order entry, accounts receivable and payable, general ledger, purchasing, warehousing, transportation and human resources. The major ERP vendors are SAP, PeopleSoft, Oracle, Baan and J.D. Edwards. Lawson Software specializes in back-end processing that integrates with another vendor's manufacturing system.

In paragraph #3, the examiner requests information to identify products and services embodying the disclosed subject matter of Claim 1, and identify the properties of similar products and services found in the prior art. In response, the applicants identify the following products and services:

1. SAP,
2. Oracle application,
3. Baan, and
4. J.D Edward (merged People soft)

In paragraph #4, the examiner requests the names of any products or services that have incorporated the claimed subject matter. In response, the only product or service that the applicant currently knows to have incorporated the claimed subject matter is TSMC's own SAP system implementation project. TSMC (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company) is the assignee of the present application. TSMC's SAP project provides basic matching functions of purchase order, goods receipts, and vendor invoice.

In paragraph #5, the examiner requests the identification of specific improvements of the subject matter in claim 1. These improvements are listed below:

¹ Nicholson, Sue, "eEncyclopedia: The Ultimate Online Learning Resource", DOI: 10.1221/0789498693

1. Auto-classify invoice type (Originally, in SAP system, for example, the invoice type should be identified by users, not generated automatically)
2. Auto-GR search (Originally, SAP system provide PO, GR and Invoice matching function to help users posting vouchers; however, user need to identify the GR number by typing into the system. This invention provide uses a efficient way to search the GR)
3. Auto-check quality inspection (Originally, SAP system does not provide quality inspection check integration while doing the voucher posting)
4. Auto-post AP voucher (Originally, SAP provide the AP voucher posting function. This system use the idea of one button posting to implement system in order that user can post vouchers without entering further information Auto-e-mail (SAP does not provide this functionality in the payment process)
5. Auto e-mail function can't be claimed in ERP any more, because Oracle has the function already, but in SAP, they don't have this function yet, so we still can claim this function in SAP system. Please see the following explanation,

"Oracle"(one of the ERP provider) Payables (module name) comprise the function of E-mail Remittance Advice Program , the function description is as following,

- When you confirm a payment batch or create a Quick payment, the Business Event System initiates this program which automatically sends an e-mail to each supplier that has a remittance advice e-mail address defined.

If further assistance can be provided, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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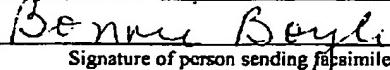
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